

01058

1989/06/03

SECRET

EXCISE

SECRETARY'S MORNING SUMMARY FOR JUNE 3, 1989

1. CHINA: POLICE USE TEAR GAS ON CROWDS

POLICE TODAY FIRED TEAR GAS ON CROWDS GATHERED AT THE WALLED COMPOUND OF ZHONGNANHAI, NEAR TIANANMEN SQUARE, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE CROWDS RETALIATED BY STONING THE POLICE, WHO WERE FORCED TO SEEK REFUGE INSIDE THE COMPOUND. SCUFFLES HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITHIN THE SQUARE AND IN OTHER PARTS OF BEIJING.

EARLIER TODAY, APPROXIMATELY 5,000 UNARMED TROOPS--THE LARGEST CONTINGENT WAS APPARENTLY FROM THE 27TH ARMY--WERE TURNED BACK BY STUDENTS AND CITIZENS AS THEY ATTEMPTED TO ADVANCE ON FOOT TO TIANANMEN SQUARE, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY AND PRESS REPORTS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR HZC Date 8/30/93
MR Casue Only: EO Citations
FOIA Exemptions 73/

TS Authority to

BEFORE THE ABORTIVE

TROOP MANEUVER, UNIFORMED SOLDIERS HAD TAKEN UP POSTS AT SEVERAL KEY INSTALLATIONS IN BEIJING, INCLUDING THE POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING AND THE RAILROAD STATION; OTHERS, OUT OF UNIFORM, REPORTEDLY ARE BILLETED IN MAJOR MEDIA FACILITIES.

COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS INDICATING THAT POLICE, NOT REGULAR ARMY TROOPS, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRING THE TEAR GAS SUGGEST THE INCIDENT OUTSIDE ZHONGNANHAI WAS

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ACCIDENTAL RATHER THAN A PREMEDITATED EFFORT TO ESCALATE THE LEVEL OF FORCE BEYOND THAT USED UNSUCCESSFULLY EARLIER IN THE DAY.

THE TROOPS' LACK OF WEAPONS IN THEIR EARLIER ASSAULT INDICATES THAT ORDERS NOT TO USE FORCE HAD STILL BEEN IN EFFECT. THE DISORDERLY NATURE OF THE TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND THE OBVIOUS CONFUSION OF MANY OF THE SOLDIERS SUGGESTS THEY WERE UNPREPARED FOR THE OUTPOURING OF OPPOSITION THEIR MOVEMENTS TRIGGERED.

BIAS

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2. CHINA: DENG'S DAMAGE LIMITATION AND THE SUCCESSION

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NEW LEASE ON LIFE

VARIOUS ACCOUNTS OF LEADERSHIP INFIGHTING SINCE AT LEAST MAY 8 HIGHLIGHT THE CENTRAL ROLE OF SEVERAL OCTOGENARIANS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT YANG SHANGKUN AND VICE PRESIDENT WANG ZHEN, AND NOMINALLY RETIRED PARTY ELDERS CHEN YUN, PENG ZHEN, AND LI XIANNIAN. HAVING APPEALED TO THEM, DENG MUST NOW GIVE THEM A VOICE IN CHOOSING A NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, A SAY IN FUTURE POLICY DIRECTION.

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THE PLAYERS AND THE SCORECARD

PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY KEY PARTY ELDERS SUGGEST THAT NOT ALL

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STRONGLY BACK PREMIER LI PENG. PENG ZHEN, FOR EXAMPLE,
APPARENTLY FAILED TO MENTION LI BY NAME DURING A TALK
WITH LEGISLATORS IN WHICH HE ENDORSED MARTIAL LAW AND
IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED THE IRREGULAR WAY DECISIONS HAD BEEN
MADE.

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